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Ministry of Education

CARIHI SECONDARY RECEIVES FUNDING FOR SEISMIC UPGRADES

CAMPBELL RIVER – The Province has approved nearly $7 million in seismic upgrades to Carihi secondary school to ensure that it continues to be a safe place for students to learn, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced today.

"Our first priority is to ensure a safe place for teachers to work and students to learn," said Bond. "Most of Carihi secondary already meets earthquake safety standards, but this funding will allow the district to complete seismic upgrades to the school."

Carihi secondary's gymnasium was seismically upgraded in 2003 and the school's addition in 1999 already meets earthquake safety requirements. The $7 million in new funding will be used to upgrade the remaining 7,500 square metres of the school, including the creation of new interior and exterior shearwalls, by reinforcing existing masonry and wood frame walls. The funding includes $1.83 million for the purchase of 11 portables that will be required for temporary accommodation during the upgrade.

"We would like to extend our appreciation to the Minister of Education and all her team who have worked very hard to ensure that the seismic upgrade of Carihi secondary will move ahead," said George Maclagan, chairperson for School District #72. "This is a significant investment in the future of education in Campbell River and reflects a strong commitment to ensure the safety and well-being of our students for many years to come."

Since 2001, the Province has invested more than $9 million for three capital projects in the Campbell River school district. These projects include the addition to Carihi secondary, a renovation to Willow Point elementary and the construction of Ripple Rock elementary school.

During the same period, the Province spent over $1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 31 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovation projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than $2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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